

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Stopping Water Leaks Reduces Facility Demand

The Member

Marvin Windows and Doors of Ripley is a family-owned business with corporate offices located in Warroad, MN. The Ripley facility was opened in 1980 and has grown to 680 associates primarily on the day shift. When you visit the Marvin W&D Ripley facility, you find a certain type of individual: independent, hard working and strong in character and conviction. It's certainly why some of Marvin's greatest innovations come from their employees. At this location, Marvin produces a high-end door product, including the "storm plus" designed to meet severe weather codes, for residential and commercial applications. Each door assembly is built to order and promptly shipped on Marvin's own fleet and with no finished goods inventory maintained in a warehouse. At Marvin's Ripley facility Continuous Improvement tools are extensively utilized to be the "best in class" and every job is performed one way: right. For the past four years, the Marvin Ripley facility has been a TOSHA STAR facility under the Voluntary Protection Program and wants to be known as a great place to work and the employer of choice in Ripley. This dedication may never make Marvin the biggest window and door manufacturer in the world but we believe it makes us the best.

The Story

With the Marvin W&D Ripley facility reaching twenty-five years of operation, so were its plumbing facilities. Many fixtures were requiring constant repair. Even when working properly, faucets were sometimes left running for extended periods. Marvin began a plumbing upgrade over a year ago, which encompassed the entire facility and has now converted all their plumbing fixtures, most of which were as old as 25 years, to modern automatic fixtures. Based on a study conducted in conjunction with facilities

engineering and the environmental management team, we were experiencing leaking faucets and water left running 10 % of the time. The new automatic sensor faucets provide ample amounts of water at reduced flow rates, while solving the "left running issue" 100%. Additionally, the new fixtures provide a healthier and cleaner environment because of their touchless feature.

The Success

The automatic flush valves contribute to improved hygiene for our associates and promote clean good smelling restrooms. In total we have installed thirty-two faucets, thirty-four toilet flush valves, eleven urinal flush valves, thirty-two soap dispensers, and forty-six touchless towel dispensers. The benefits from this effort include stabilizing and reducing water usage by 600 gal/day (individual units are not metered so this number is calculated based on overall reductions) and sewer charges at a time when those rates were increasing, and while Marvin's Ripley facility was, over the past two years, adding approximately 100 people to the second and third shift. Improved hygiene for our associates, due to preventing spread of germs by touching fixtures, provides a benefit that is invaluable even if impossible to measure. In addition, we expect to save \$1200 per year just by limiting the length of the towels from the touchless dispensers, so now we are buying a better more absorbent towel and using less.

The Pollution Prevented

These restroom upgrades save water, trees, and are people-friendly. Some of the intangible benefits of these changes include enhanced facility appearance and employee appreciation of the company's efforts to maintain the facility in a good state of repair while simultaneously benefiting the environment.

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